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| WEATHER CLIMATE WATER | **World Meteorological Organization****WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS****Nineteenth Session**22 May to 2 June 2023, Geneva | **Cg-19/Doc. 4.1(6)** |
| Submitted by:Chair of Plenary23.V.2023**APPROVED** |

**AGENDA ITEM 4: TECHNICAL STRATEGIES SUPPORTING LONG-TERM GOALS**

**AGENDA ITEM 4.1: Services for societal needs**

# COST OPTIONS INVESTIGATION

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# GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

### Proposed resolution to Congress with respect to cost options for WMO Members in the delivery of marine services

1. The World Meteorological Congress, at its seventeenth session ([Cg-17, General Summary paragraph 3.1.132](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=3138#page=73)), requested the co-president of the Joint Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), to consider cost recovery processes for marine services.

2. This work and investigation were reported to the eighteenth session of Congress (Cg-18) under [Cg-18/INF. 5.4](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=9797#page=480) – Strengthening Marine and Coastal Services. The subsequent discussions resulted in the adoption of [Resolution 30 (Cg-18)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=9827/#page=112) – Exploring Costing Options for Marine Services in the Future. It was decided that further investigation was required, along with the provision of advice to Members, on cost option models. Congress requested that the Executive Council (EC) ensured that consultations with relevant bodies would be undertaken, including with IMO; and that a report would be presented for consideration at the nineteenth session of World Meteorological Congress (Cg-19).

3. A number of WMO Publications were identified as relevant to the investigation and supported the findings; these include [*Guidelines on the Role, Operation and Management of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services*](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=20172) (WMO-No. 1195), [*Guide to Marine Meteorological Services*](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=7469) (WMO-No. 471), [*Weather Reporting, Vol. D, Information for Shipping*](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=6870#.YxWlyXZBw2w) (WMO-No. 9) and the [*Manual on Marine Meteorological Services Volume I – Global Aspects*](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=9784) (WMO-No. 558). WMO plays a critical role in promulgating standards for Marine Meteorological Services (MMS) through the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974, 2000 amendments, in particular Chapter V, regulation 5. IMO resolutions A.1051(27), amended by Resolution MSC.470(101) - IMO/WMO Worldwide Met-Ocean Information and Warning Service – Guidance Document (14 June 2019) and A.707(17) - Charges for Distress, Urgency and Safety Messages through the Inmarsat System (6 November 1991) provide key elements to support safety of navigation in the implementation of SOLAS. All of the above guided the conduct of the investigation.

4. As requested by Cg-18, the Marine Services Division (MAR) of WMO undertook a survey of Members between January and February 2021.The results were analysed and used to formulate the resultant interview questions for the present survey. The survey was used to understand the basic profile of the Members with respect to their provision of marine services. The results of the survey are not directly discussed in this document for reasons of confidentiality as it contains Member sensitive information. In summary, this survey indicated that several coastal states considered their ability to provide MMS was under financial stress and that generating additional income would allow them to improve their current services and to expand beyond those presently provided. As elaborated in [Cg-19/INF. 4.1(6)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Cg-19/InformationDocuments/Cg-19-INF04-1(6)-COST-OPTIONS-INVESTIGATION_en.docx&action=default), this concern has been indicated more strongly in certain regions but overall shared across all WMO regions. These observations demonstrated the need to further investigate the underlying causes of. financial stress among WMO Members and to generate recommendations. It was identified that an extension of the 2021 survey should be undertaken to gain further details on how MMS were funded, what additional services were provided beyond basic SOLAS Maritime Safety Information (MSI), identification of customer demands, nature of government legislation in place to facilitate charging for services, what cost recovery mechanisms were in place, and what proportion of the income was received by MMS.

**Expected action**

1. Based on the above, Congress may wish to adopt [Draft Resolution 4.1(6)/1 (Cg‑19)](#Res).

**DRAFT RESOLUTION**

## Draft Resolution 4.1(6)/1 (Cg-19)

## Cost Options Investigation

THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS,

**Having examined** [Recommendation 3.1(17)/1 (EC-76)](https://meetings.wmo.int/EC-76/English/2.%20PROVISIONAL%20REPORT%20%28Approved%20documents%29/EC-76-d03-1%2817%29-COST-OPTIONS-INVESTIGATION-approved_en.docx?Web=1) – Cost Options Investigation, and the proposed recommendations regarding cost options for the WMO Members to deliver marine services, as contained in the [Annex](#Annex) to this present draft resolution,

**Having agreed** [Recommendation 3.1(17)/1 (EC-76),](https://meetings.wmo.int/EC-76/English/2.%20PROVISIONAL%20REPORT%20%28Approved%20documents%29/EC-76-d03-1%2817%29-COST-OPTIONS-INVESTIGATION-approved_en.docx?Web=1)

**Invites** WMO Members to consider the recommendations as contained in the [annex](#Annex) to the present draft resolution.

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See [Cg-19/INF. 4.1(6)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Cg-19/InformationDocuments/Cg-19-INF04-1(6)-COST-OPTIONS-INVESTIGATION_en.docx&action=default) for more information.

[Annex: 1](#Annex)

## Annex to draft Resolution 4.1(6)/1 (Cg-19)

## Proposed recommendations with respect to cost options for WMO Members to deliver marine services

**Preamble**: IMO is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships. The International Convention for SOLAS, 1974, provides, under Chapter V on Safety of navigation, regulation 5, relevant provisions on SOLAS Contracting Governments undertakings concerning meteorological services and warnings. Additional provisions concerning the dissemination of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) to ships are also contained in SOLAS Chapter IV on Radiocommunications. IMO is currently considering cost implications for MSI and search and rescue (SAR) information providers due to the recognition of multiple mobile satellite service providers for use in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). This also includes the consideration of technical solutions to facilitate the dissemination of information to ships. The WMO Secretariat participates in relevant IMO meetings and undertakes regular consultations with the IMO Secretariat. During recent IMO meetings, views were expressed by Contracting Governments that no additional cost should be borne by them, shipowners, ship operators or end users due to the recognition of new mobile satellite services. Any proposals for the introduction of a charging mechanism into SOLAS to support the delivery of marine meteorological warnings and forecasts would need to be submitted by SOLAS Contracting Governments to IMO for consideration by the IMO Maritime Safety Committee, following the relevant IMO procedures.

The recommendations are informed by taking the above into account:

(1) It is proposed that SERCOM, in consultation with Members and relevant technical bodies, develops a Best Practice guidance document to assist MMS, especially of developing states, on the most appropriate approaches and some lessons learned from undertaking cost recovery activities as well as a further study into the underlying causes of financial stress among WMO Members.

(2) Many MMS do not have readily available statistics with which to support their funding case when approaching departments and governments. Thus, comprehensive regionally focused cost-benefit analysis studies, with guidance from Regional Associations, are recommended to be undertaken by appropriately experienced individuals, either from the WMO Secretariat or through external contract, to provide data to support the MMS case.

(3) Members are encouraged to review their government’s legislation and policies with regards to any restrictions on MMS ability to undertake cost recovery and other commercial activities if the Member’s Government aim is to increase the MMS revenue through cost recovery activities.

(4) The low staff levels and staff gapping experienced by a number of MMS are impeding their development; governments are encouraged to review restrictions on recruitment to allow progression towards full staffing levels.

(5) MMS need to know the needs or requirements of potential customers; therefore, it is recommended that simple questionnaires and analyses are undertaken to identify potential customers and their needs. This will highlight whether there is a local need for additional services and products and therefore whether it is worth committing the resources to any expansion programme.

(6) Many MMS indicated the need for assistance to put in place the necessary structures and programmes to allow them to grow and expand their capabilities. It would be appropriate and timely for the Capacity Development Panel in the current review of the WMO Capacity Development Strategy to consider whether the correct levels of support for training and product and service development are available as well as for governments to consider different funding approaches to best support their MMS provision.

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